



2011–12

Annual Report

Queensland Parole Boards

Contact details

Queensland Parole Board and Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board

Gabba Towers, Level 3, 411 Vulture Street,
Woolloongabba Qld 4102

Postal Address

GPO Box 1054, Brisbane Qld 4001
Ph (07) 3406 2418
Fax (07) 3406 2442

Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board

60 Southwood Road, Stuart Qld 4811

Postal Address

PO Box 5574, Townsville Qld 4810
Ph (07) 4799 8427
Fax (07) 4799 8513

Parole Board email

Queensland Parole Board:
QPBoard@dcs.qld.gov.au

Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board:
SQRBoard@dcs.qld.gov.au

Central and Northern Queensland
Regional Parole Board:
CNQRBoard@dcs.qld.gov.au

Department of Community Safety

www.communitysafety.qld.gov.au

Queensland Corrective Services

www.correctiveservices.qld.gov.au
State Law Building, 50 Ann St, Brisbane Qld 4000

Postal address

GPO Box 1054, Brisbane Qld 4001
Phone: (07) 3227 7111
Fax: (07) 3227 6668

Contact details for all corrective services locations
including Probation and Parole offices and
correctional centres are available at the website.

Acronyms

DCS – Department of Community Safety
QCS – Queensland Corrective Services
CSA – Corrective Services Act 2006
QPB – Queensland Parole Board
SQRPB – Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board
CNQRPB – Central and Northern Queensland Regional
Parole Board

Contents

President's Message	2
Contribution by the Nominated Public Service Officer	3
Parole Boards	4
Queensland Parole Board	4
Regional Parole Boards	4
Australasian Parole Board Conference – October 2011	5
Contribution by the Deputy President, Queensland Parole Board	6
Queensland Parole Orders	7
Court Ordered Parole	7
Board Ordered Parole	7
Exceptional Circumstances Parole	7
Applying for Parole	7
Parole Board timeframes	7
Parole Order Conditions	7
Travel	7
Organisational Chart	8
Parole Board Secretariat	8
Number of Meetings	9
Number of Matters considered	9
Parole Applications	9
Number of Parole Applications Granted	9
Number of Parole Applications Refused	10
Interstate Transfer Applications	10
Board Ordered Parole Orders Suspended or Cancelled	10
Court Ordered Parole Orders Suspended or Cancelled	10
Victims Register	11
Reintegration Support	11

President's Message

I am very pleased to report a very successful year for the independent Queensland Parole Boards. The Parole Boards consist of the Queensland Parole Board, the Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board and the Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board.

This success is due to a number of factors which can be summarised as follows:

- Very good work ethics of both the members of the Parole Boards and the Parole Boards' Secretariat personnel both in Brisbane and Townsville;
- Probation and parole staff members for their timely Parole Board Reports on parole violations and home assessments;
- Parole board report interview panel members from the various correctional centres for their comprehensive and insightful reports to the Parole Boards;
- Program facilitators in all the correctional centres for their program completion reports; and
- Crown Law for their proactive approach in providing legal opinions to the Parole Boards and their timely attendance before the Parole Boards for clarification of matters.

This year has seen in excess of 20,000 matters come before the Parole Boards for decision making. The decisions include not only the granting of parole orders but a host of other matters including the refusal to grant parole orders, the suspensions and cancellations of parole orders, which are all part of the Parole Boards' charter to ensure community safety.

As part of my role as President of the Parole Boards, I instruct and direct numerous legal proceedings over a wide range of matters. I am ably assisted in this role by my Deputy Presidents who are practicing lawyers.

Attendances of Parole Board members took place at the Helena Jones Correctional Centre, the Brisbane Womens Correctional Centre and the Woodford Correctional Centre for the purpose of giving the

members a better understanding of the workings within the Correctional Centres from which outcomes arrive in the form of Parole Board Reports.

I would also like to mention the tour of the Ozcare facility in Peel Street, South Brisbane for the Parole Board members to give them an insight into this great organization which strongly supports prisoners throughout Queensland to obtain accommodation.

I had the pleasure of hosting the Annual Australasia Parole Board Conference this year. The outcomes focused on shared information and practice. This of course leads to better practice procedures which increase the Parole Boards quality of service.

In conclusion, I would just like to emphasise two other important aspects in my role. Firstly, I have been fortunate once again this year to meet with the Elders, Justice Groups, Men's Group of the communities in the Gulf and Torres Straits region to thank them for their support and to reassure them that very serious consideration is given to their concerns and recommendations when a prisoner is returning to these isolated communities on parole. Secondly, I had the pleasure of attending the Work Camp Conference this year to reassure all the participants that the Parole Boards have confidence in their programs of community work which is a major step for reintegration back into society especially for long term prisoners.

The Parole Boards are always improving their literature and decision making procedures to ensure best practice is always on the agenda. Finally, I would like to thank Mr Andrew Leese, the Nominated Public Service Officer on the Parole Boards and Ms Tracey Crosby, Director of the Parole Board Secretariat whom I consider as the directors of continuing improvement.

Peter McInnes
President
Queensland Parole Boards

Contribution by the Nominated Public Service Officer

Once again 2011-12 has seen an exponential growth in the number of matters considered by the Parole Boards. This increase has been experienced by all the Boards, including those serious offenders considered by the Queensland Parole Board and court-ordered parolees reviewed by the two regional boards. We have also seen a significant increase in matters before the Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board which considers prisoners from central and northern Queensland.

In my role as the Nominated Public Service Officer I am uniquely placed to appreciate the critical role played by all operational areas in Queensland Corrective Services to ensure quality decisions are made regarding releasing prisoners on parole and managing their parole supervision.

The process begins at correctional centres, with multi disciplinary teams interviewing prisoner parole applicants and preparing Parole Board Reports, to inform the Boards in their decision making. This information is critical, as it directly relates to the prisoner's efforts in custody to rehabilitate themselves, along with an assessment of their capacity to lead a law abiding life back in the community.

In addition to the Parole Board Report, the Boards have the benefit of community reintegration information from Probation and Parole, in the

form of Home Assessment Reports. As we all know prisoners are subject to significant pressures and life challenges upon release, and their success can be maximised through a supportive, pro-social home environment. All Parole Boards rely upon the professional expertise of probation and parole with respect to their assessments and recommendations, in deciding whether a prisoner can be safely returned to a particular community.

Finally, as the Nominated Public Service Officer I am especially aware of the key role the department's Criminogenic Program's Unit plays in preparing particular prisoners for parole. Those prisoners convicted of sexual or violent offences and assessed as requiring intervention are prioritised according to their parole eligibility dates, and I appreciate the ongoing high level of collaboration between the Boards and that unit in maximising the timely movement of prisoners onto parole.

Notwithstanding the steady growth in matters before the Queensland Parole Boards, the continued assistance I have received throughout the year across the department has enabled me to support the Boards in delivering high quality parole decisions.

Andrew Leese
Nominated Public Service Officer
Queensland Parole Boards

Parole Boards

The Parole Boards are independent statutory bodies with members appointed by the Governor in Council. The role of the Queensland Parole Boards is to determine whether eligible prisoners are suitable for supervised release into the community.

There are three Parole Boards within Queensland;

- Queensland Parole Board;
- Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board and
- Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board.

Queensland Parole Board

The Queensland Parole Board is the highest decision making body of the three Parole Boards, and the membership is detailed under Section 218 of the Corrective Services Act 2006 (CSA).

The functions of the Queensland Parole Board are detailed in Section 217 of the CSA.

Matters considered by the Board include:

- Deciding parole applications for prisoners serving a term of imprisonment of eight years or more;
- Determining requests for international travel;
- Registration of parole orders transferred from other Australian States and
- Determining suspensions, cancellations and amendments for prisoners serving terms of imprisonment of eight years or more or those subject to parole orders transferred from another Australian State.

During this financial year the Queensland Parole Board welcomed Margo McGillvray to the Board as the Deputy President and David Conry as a Board member. The Queensland Parole Board also farewellled Board member Xavier Kelly.

Regional Parole Boards

Regional Parole Board membership is detailed under Section 232 of the CSA.

The functions of the Regional Parole Boards are detailed under Section 231 of the CSA.

Matters considered by the Boards include:

- Deciding parole applications for prisoners serving a term of imprisonment in excess of three years but less than eight years including serious violent offenders and sex offenders; and

- Determining suspensions, cancellations and amendments for prisoners serving a term of imprisonment less than eight years including Court Ordered Parole Orders.

There are two Regional Parole Boards:

- Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board – this Board considers matters for prisoners located at:
 - Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre;
 - Southern Queensland Correctional Centre;
 - Brisbane Correctional Centre;
 - Brisbane Womens Correctional Centre;
 - Darling Downs Correctional Centre;
 - Numinbah Correctional Centre;
 - Palen Creek Correctional Centre;
 - Wolston Correctional Centre; and
 - Woodford Correctional Centres

as well as prisoners managed by Probation and Parole offices located in:

- North Coast Regions;
- South Coast Regions;
- Southern Regions; and
- Brisbane Regions.

- Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board – this Board considers matters for prisoners located at;

- Capricornia Correctional Centre;
- Lotus Glen Correctional Centre;
- Townsville Correctional Centre;
- Townsville Women's Correctional Centre; and
- Maryborough Correctional Centres

as well as prisoners managed by Probation and Parole offices located in:

- Central Region;
- Northern Region; and
- Far Northern Region.

During this financial year the Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board welcomed board member Grazia Catalano. The Board also farewellled Margo McGillvray who was appointed to the role of Deputy President of the Queensland Parole Board.

The Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board welcomed board member Priscilla Page.

The membership of the Parole Boards during the 2011-2012 financial year included.

Board	Psychologist or Doctor	Indigenous or Torres Strait Islander Person	Female	Male
QPB	1	1	4	4
SQRPB	2	2	4	5
CNQRPB	2	2	4	4
Total membership: 21				

* These figures include the President and the Nominated Public Service Officer, who serve on each Board.

Australasian Parole Board Conference – October 2011

In October 2011 the Queensland Parole Boards hosted the Australasian Parole Board Conference at the Gold Coast. The theme of the Conference was ‘Reconnecting with the community – challenges and initiatives’ and focused on three key areas namely indigenous offenders, high risk offenders and mental health. The Conference was opened by the Director General, Department of Community Safety, Mr. Kelvin Anderson. Chairpersons, board members and administrators from parole board authorities within Australia, New Zealand and Canada attended the Conference. Presenters at the Conference included

- Norm Clarke, Aboriginal Elder;
- Commissioner David Glasgow, Head of Family Responsibilities Commission;
- Dr Andrew Aboud from Prisoner Mental Health;
- Professor Paul Mazerolle from Griffith University;
- Ms Jonty Bush from Victim Assist Queensland and
- Catherine Scott from Crown Law.

The presenters provided personal and professional accounts in relation to their field of expertise. Feedback from the attendees at the Conference was extremely positive.

It was decided at the Conference that the 2012 Australasian Parole Board Conference would be hosted by the Adult Parole Board of Victoria.

Contribution by the Deputy President, Queensland Parole Board

I became a member of the Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board ('the Southern Board') in September 2008 and was appointed Deputy President of the Queensland Parole Board in July 2011. I did not have a background in corrective services. Rather, for almost 25 years, I have worked as a commercial and litigation lawyer in private practice law firms and as general counsel, for a number of businesses. My time on both Boards has taught me much. It has been a very valuable experience.

Not surprisingly, the Southern Board deals with a great volume of matters, many of the offences fuelled by illegal drug use, as well as alcohol. Members of the Southern Board also review prisoners who have breached their Court Ordered Parole Order's. This area has seen exceptional growth in recent years.

The Queensland Parole Board deals with a lower volume of matters, but many raise complex issues, particularly relating to prisoners' mental health. Both Boards regularly obtain assessments from independent psychiatrists and psychologists regarding prisoners' risk of reoffending, and management in the community, where they are to be released. Both Boards are also aware of the high demand for program participation within correctional centres. Board Members seek to appropriately balance a prisoner's program participation with the risk of releasing an offender into the community untreated.

As part of the ongoing learning process encouraged by the Boards, I attended the Australasian Parole Boards Conference held at the Gold Coast in October 2011. The Conference was hosted by Queensland this year, and attended by delegates from all Australian states and Canada and New Zealand. The quality of the presentations was very high. The delegates learnt about the different processes for parole in each jurisdiction, and obtained insights into the issues common to all – such as the over representation of indigenous offenders in prison populations. The Canadian model of providing more than 2000 beds in half-way houses across the country was particularly impressive. These community based residential facilities provide a bridge between the correctional institution and the community. They provide supervision, programs and interventions to assist offenders with gradual and structured transition to the community.

I look forward to continuing the education process. I believe the Parole Boards play an important role in maintaining public confidence in the justice system. Each member brings a unique perspective on the best way to balance the freedom of the offender, and the safety of the community.

Margo MacGillivray
Deputy President
Queensland Parole Board

Queensland Parole Orders

The CSA provides parole as the only option for early release from custody. Prisoners will be released either at a date fixed by the sentencing court (Court Ordered Parole) or when granted parole by a Parole Board (Board Ordered Parole).

Sections 176 – 215 of the CSA relate to the management of parole orders.

Court Ordered Parole

If a prisoner is sentenced to three years or less imprisonment (excluding sex offenders and serious violent offenders), at the time of sentencing the court may fix a date in which the prisoner is to be released from custody. The prisoner will then be released from custody on the date set by the court.

Board Ordered Parole

Section 180 of the CSA details when a prisoner may apply for parole. A prisoner may apply for a parole order once their parole eligibility date has been reached.

A prisoner can not apply for parole:

- Until they have reached a date 180 days before their parole eligibility date;
- Until the end of the period decided by the Parole Board that refused the previous parole application; and/or
- If an appeal has been lodged to the court against the prisoner's conviction or sentence.

Sections 181-185 of the CSA provides information relating to a prisoners parole eligibility date.

Exceptional Circumstances Parole

Section 176 of the CSA states a prisoner can apply for Exceptional Circumstances Parole at any time. A prisoner can be granted Exceptional Circumstances Parole prior to their parole eligibility date.

Applying for Parole

A prisoner can apply for a Parole Order by completing a Form 29 – Application by Prisoner for Parole Order or a Form 28 – Application by Prisoner for Exceptional Circumstances Parole Order.

On receipt of the application corrective services staff will interview the prisoner and prepare a Parole Board Report. The report and relevant documentation will be forwarded to the Board for consideration and decision.

Parole Board timeframes

In accordance with Section 193(3) of the CSA the Parole Board has 180 days from the date the prisoner applies for parole to make a final decision. That is unless the Parole Boards decides to defer the application to seek further information, in which case the Parole Board then has 210 days to make a final decision.

If parole is granted a prisoner can not be released from custody until their parole eligibility date, that is unless granted exceptional circumstances parole.

Parole Order Conditions

Section 200(1) of the CSA details the conditions that must be included in a prisoner's Parole Order.

- (a) to be under the chief executive's supervision—
 - (i) until the end of the prisoner's period of imprisonment; or
 - (ii) if the prisoner is being detained in an institution for a period fixed by a judge under the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1945, part 3—for the period the prisoner was directed to be detained; and
- (b) to carry out the chief executive's lawful instructions; and
- (c) to give a test sample if required to do so by the chief executive under section 41; and
- (d) to report, and receive visits, as directed by the chief executive; and
- (e) to notify the chief executive within 48 hours of any change in the prisoner's address or employment during the parole period; and
- (f) not to commit an offence.

Section 200(2) of the CSA details that a Parole Board can add additional conditions to a prisoner's parole order that they consider necessary to ensure the prisoner's good conduct whilst subject to the order and/or to stop the prisoner from committing a further offence.

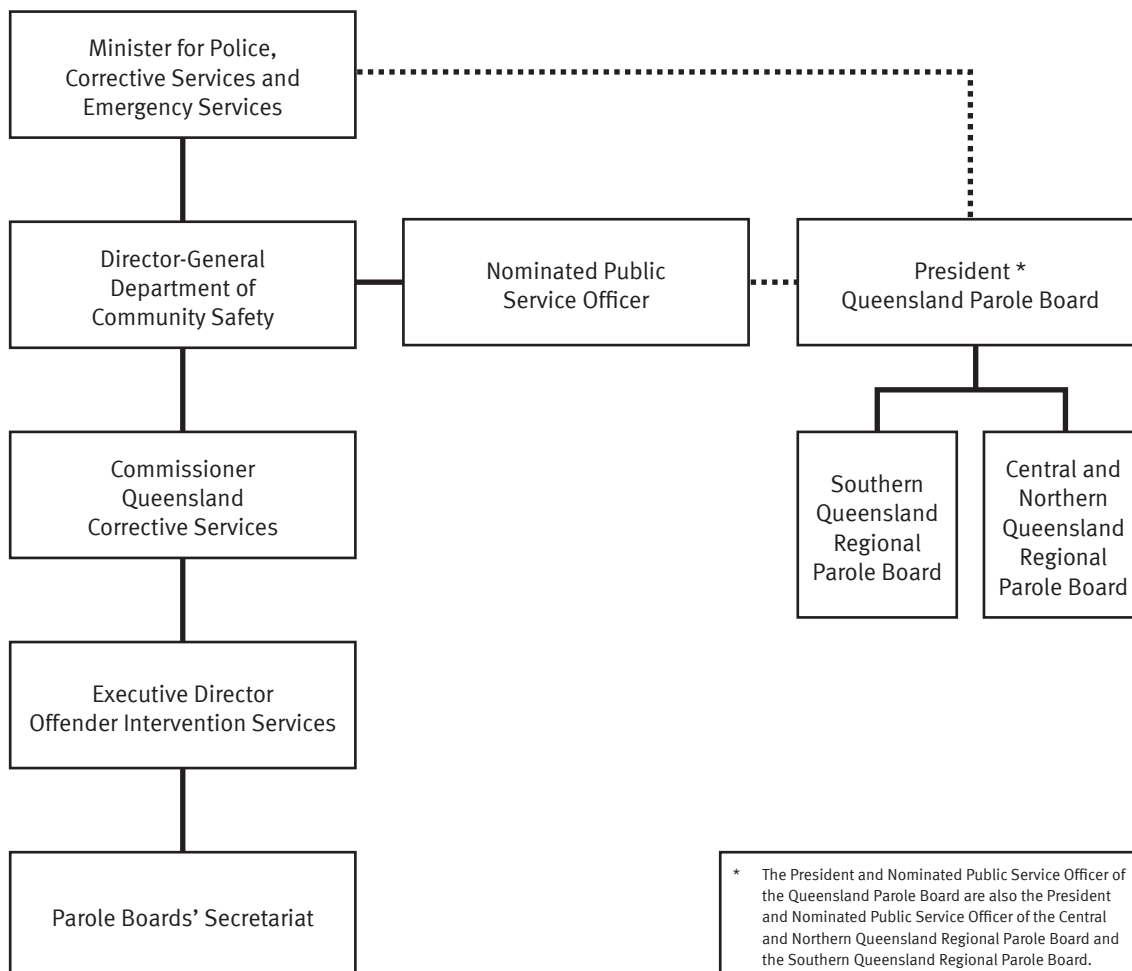
Travel

Travelling Interstate while released on parole - Section 212 of the CSA allows for a Parole Board to grant a prisoner subject to a Board Ordered Parole Order permission to leave Queensland for a period of more than seven days.

Travelling overseas while released on parole- Section 213 of the CSA allows for the Queensland Parole Board to grant a prisoner subject to a Parole Order (Court ordered or Board ordered) permission to leave Australia for a stated period for compassionate grounds in exceptional circumstances.

(In all cases for interstate and overseas travel correctives services staff are required to provide the Board with a report detailing the circumstances of the travel.)

Organisational Chart



Parole Board Secretariat

The Parole Board Secretariat is a unit within Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) Offender Intervention Services Directorate and it provides administration support to the three Parole Boards.

The role of the Parole Board Secretariat includes but is not limited to:

- Processing matters for consideration by the Parole Boards;
- Minuting all meetings of the Parole Boards;
- Preparing all correspondence from Parole Board outcomes for prisoners, correctional centres, probation and parole and legal representatives;

- Generating Warrants and Parole Orders; and
- Liaising with internal and external stakeholders for and on behalf of the Parole Boards.

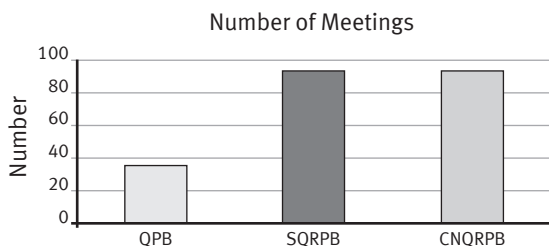
There are two Parole Board Secretariat offices. The Brisbane office provides administrative support to the Queensland Parole Board and the Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board. The Townsville office provides administrative support to the Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board.

The Director of the Parole Board Secretariat is responsible for the operations of both secretariats.

Number of Meetings

During the 2011-2012 financial year there were a total of 181 Parole Board meetings.

QPB: 35
SQRPB: 92
CNQRPB: 54



The number of meetings does not include *BOOSTS:

*BOOSTS (Board Out Of Session Teleconferences) occur when an urgent matter is identified and there is not a meeting being held within the required timeframe.

A BOOST occurs via teleconference and there must be a minimum of four Board members (a quorum). The President or a Deputy President and the Nominated Public Service Officer must be present during these meetings.

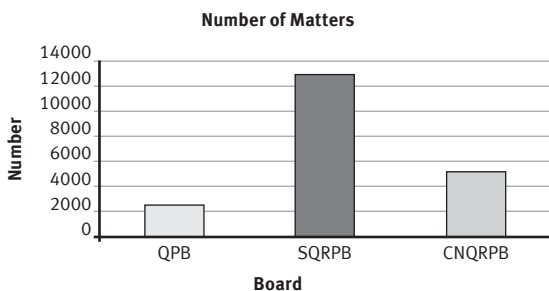
During the 2011-2012 financial year there were a total of 163 BOOST meetings conducted.

QPB: 29
SQRPB: 77
CNQRPB: 57

Number of Matters considered

During the 2011-2012 financial year the Queensland Parole Board and two Regional Parole Boards considered a total of 20 926 matters.

QPB: 2809
SQRPB: 12918
CNQRPB: 5199



The number of matters includes those considered during BOOSTS:

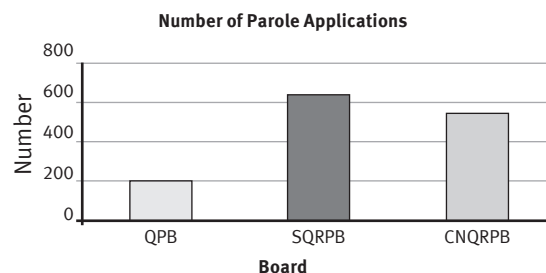
Matters determined by the Board include:

- Parole applications;
- Parole progress reports;
- Parole suspensions/ cancellations;
- Travel requests for prisoners on parole– interstate or international;
- Amendments to parole orders; and
- Prisoner submissions regarding parole.

Parole Applications

During the 2011-2012 financial year the Queensland Parole Board and two Regional Parole Boards considered a total of 1390 applications, 28 of which were applications for Exceptional Circumstances Parole.

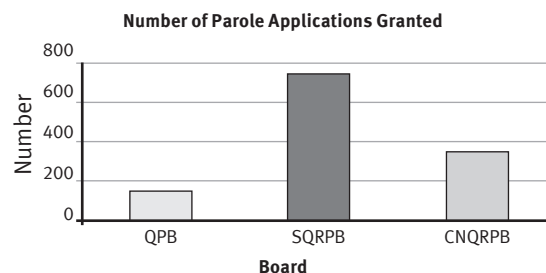
QPB: 203 (4 exceptional circumstances)
SQRPB: 645 (7 exceptional circumstances)
CNQRPB: 542 (17 exceptional circumstances)



Number of Parole Applications Granted

During the 2011-2012 financial year the Queensland Parole Board and two Regional Parole Boards granted a total of 1259 parole applications, five of which were Exceptional Circumstances Parole applications.

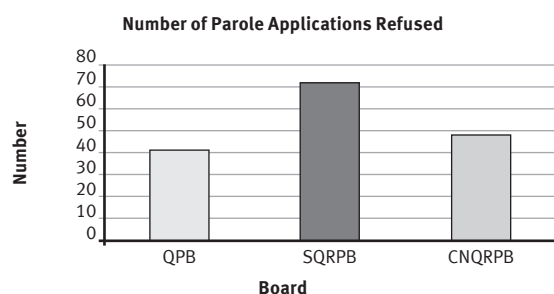
QPB: 158 (2 exceptional circumstances)
SQRPB: 743 (1 exceptional circumstances)
CNQRPB: 358 (2 exceptional circumstances)



Number of Parole Applications Refused

During the 2011-2012 financial year the Queensland Parole Board and two Regional Parole Boards refused a total of 162 parole applications, 15 of which were applications for Exceptional Circumstances Parole.

QPB: 42 (2 Exceptional Circumstances)
SQRPB: 72 (9 Exceptional Circumstances)
CNQRPB: 48 (4 Exceptional Circumstances)

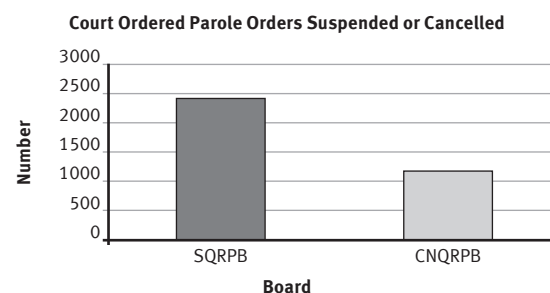


The number of parole applications granted and refused by the Parole Boards during the 2011-2012 financial year does not correlate with the number of new parole applications considered by the Parole Boards during the same period. This is a result of the Parole Boards considering parole applications that were not finalised during the year they were submitted.

Court Ordered Parole Orders Suspended or Cancelled

During the 2011-2012 financial year the two Regional Parole Boards suspended or cancelled a total of 3548 Court Ordered Parole Orders.

SQRPB: 2399
CNQRPB: 1149



Interstate Transfer Applications

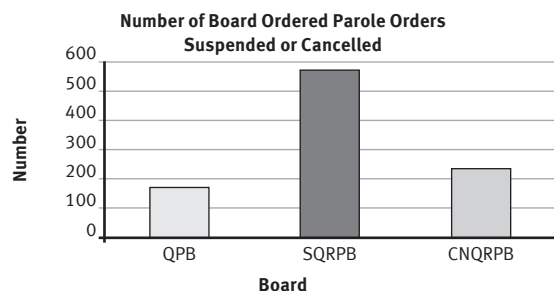
During the 2011-2012 financial year:

- 44 offenders transferred their parole orders into Queensland from other Australian States or Territory; and
- Four offenders transferred their Queensland Parole Orders to another Australian State or Territory.

Board Ordered Parole Orders Suspended or Cancelled

During the 2011-2012 financial year the Queensland Parole Board and two Regional Parole Boards suspended or cancelled a total of 976 Board Ordered Parole Orders.

QPB: 174
SQRPB: 570
CNQRPB: 232



Victims Register

The Queensland Corrective Services Victims Register is part of the Office of the Commissioner for Queensland Corrective Services and is established in accordance with the CSA. The Register informs registered victims of crime about significant events in the sentences of those who have offended against them and who have been convicted and sentenced to a term of imprisonment.

It provides victims of violent or sexual offences with information about a prisoner's sentence, the correctional centre where they are being held, their security classification, release and eligibility dates, when they are transferred or discharged, the probation and parole office they will be reporting to and other events such as the death of the prisoner.

The Register also advises victims when a prisoner has made an application for parole and provides the victims with the relevant forms to make a submission to the Parole Board. These submissions will usually be in relation to whether the prisoner should be released and what conditions should be placed on the prisoner e.g. that they not contact their victims or their families or live within a certain distance of them.

Additionally, for those prisoners who fall under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003*, the Victims Register assists victims to make submissions to the Supreme Court about prisoner's initial orders and any subsequent contravention hearings in the Supreme Court.

Contact Details:

Queensland Corrective Services Victims Register
www.correctiveservices.qld.gov.au
Email: victims.register@dcs.qld.gov.au
Postal address: GPO Box 1054, Brisbane QLD 4001
Free Call: 1800 098 098
Ph: (07) 3227 7597
Fax: (07) 3211 7384

Reintegration Support

Queensland Corrective Services utilises the Reintegration Support Model (formerly known as the Integrated Transitional Support Model) to assist prisoners to make a successful transition to the community following a period of incarceration. Transitions Coordinator(s) are appointed to custodial centres across the State to deliver Reintegration Support Model programs and services to sentenced offenders. Prisoners are eligible to receive reintegration support within nine months prior to their parole eligibility or court ordered parole date or full time release date.

The Reintegration Support Model comprises three key components, the Transitions Program, the Transitional Support Service and the Offender Reintegration Support Service (ORSS). Through this model of support, sentenced offenders are assisted to set realistic goals, identify appropriate support networks and put into place practical plans for resettlement after release from custody.

The Transitions Program is a group based program targeted at the release needs of higher risk prisoners, and/or those with violent and/or sexual offences. A range of specialist government and non government service providers support the delivery of the program to prisoners by co-facilitating elective modules covering key reintegration barriers such as housing, employment, health, addiction, relationships, evidence of identity documentation, budgeting and financial assistance, education and probation and parole requirements. In 2011 two new modules were implemented following a review of the program, to address mental health and parenting needs.

The Transitional Support Service, is the lower intensity service offered to other prisoners, including those serving short sentences.

The Offender Reintegration Support Service is for prisoners who are higher risk and have significant outstanding post release reintegration needs. ORSS is delivered by contracted non government organisations.

ORSS case workers link with prisoners in custody prior to release and continue to assist them to put their reintegration plans into action during the critical transition period when they resettling in the community. Prisoners can receive assistance across the range of practical resettlement need, including support to find housing and maintain their tenancy, transport on the day of release, assistance to get to probation and parole and Centrelink appointments, and support to access alcohol and drug counselling services, health services, financial counselling and family and relationship support services.

The current contracted ORSS service providers are:

North Queensland region

(Lotus Glen and Townsville Correctional Centres)
Career Employment Australia

Central Queensland region

(Capricornia Correctional Centre)
Anglicare Central Queensland

Wide Bay/Sunshine Coast region

Mission Australia

South East Queensland/Gold Coast region

Mission Australia

